

## Recreation Facilities Project

A resource and counselling service is now offered throughout Ontario to individuals and agencies involved in planning and designing recreation facilities. The Recreation Facilities Project of the Sports and Fitness Division, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, was created in 1974. It represents another forward step in the Ministry's program of offering Ontarians more opportunities to enjoy such leisure-time activities as fitness programs and amateur sports.

### What does the Recreation Facilities Project do?

The Project initially provided research support for the planning and design of the Ontario Sports Training Centre, a multi-sport complex for the training of the province's amateur athletes. The basic purpose of the Project is to make readily available information on the planning, design and construction of: arenas, swimming pools, community centres, gymnasiums, parks, trails, sports complexes, tracks, playing fields, ski areas, indoor and outdoor courts and many other leisure facilities. Community groups, municipal recreation officials, architects, planners and other professionals use the services of the Project to aid in the solution of facility-related problems. It offers supporting services that respond to particular forms of need among facility-builders.

**Information Handling System** There is great potential for solving facility-related problems in the Project's collection of books, reports, journal articles, plans, brochures, catalogues, slides, newspaper clippings and other materials. Approximately one hundred national and international, public and private organizations, in addition to commercial publishers, have contributed documents to the collection.

Document file. 2,000 documents on all aspects of recreation facilities have been located, acquired, abstracted, indexed and filed. Access to these documents is by subject-indicating Filecodes and by document authors. Acquisition of materials is an ongoing process, enabling users of the system to stay abreast of current changes in the field.

Product catalogue file. Reference to product catalogues is available when facilities are in advanced stages of design or already completed.

Newspaper clipping file. Newspapers are often a source of current information on Canadian facilities. Pertinent clippings are kept easily accessible.

Professional services file. There are many outstanding recreation projects executed in Ontario and the rest of Canada. Project staff have visited architects, planners and facility consultants in several provinces to secure brochures describing their projects. Examples of current and completed projects can often aid community groups or professionals in their attempts to develop facility solutions.

Slide file. Approximately 700 slides of various recreation facilities are kept on file for reference and for seminar presentations. The research staff search for appropriate additions to the file when they visit various cities and facilities. Slides of foreign recreation facilities have also been acquired.

**Counselling** A major thrust of the Recreation Facilities Project is a counselling (not consulting) service to practitioners, sports governing bodies, educational institutions, the private sector and others. The counselling service is aimed at providing guidance and support to individuals and organizations who have encountered a facility-related problem. We do not propose a solution but, rather, provide as much assistance as possible to aid the enquirers in the clarification of the problem or in the search for a solution to the problem. This service is viewed by the Project staff as contributing to the betterment of planned and existing facilities. Two

hundred and eighty counselling requests have been handled by the Project staff in the first 27 months of operation.

**Publications** Three series of publications provide desk-top reference guides to facility solutions. The Recreation Facilities Index contains one-page abstracts/extracts of documents in the collection of the Project. Facility Fundamentals suggest design approaches that can be applied to particular types of facilities independent of the site location. Technical Notes give concise descriptions of facility problems and present several solutions for each in a format that can be readily used.

**Conferences and seminars** Seminars on current topics of interest are prepared by the staff. Examples of these presentations include air-supported structures and community halls.

**Reading room** All documents, slides, product literature and newspaper clippings are kept in a reading room at the office of the Ontario Sports Training Centre and are available for public use by appointment. Document reproduction will be provided when possible.

**Referred research problems** The final area of service provided by the Recreation Facilities Project covers investigations that may be approved and specifically referred to the Project requiring the articulation, design and implementation of major research, evaluation or review. Effort during 1976-1977 has focused on the development of a handbook on Canada Games facility standards for summer and winter competitions.

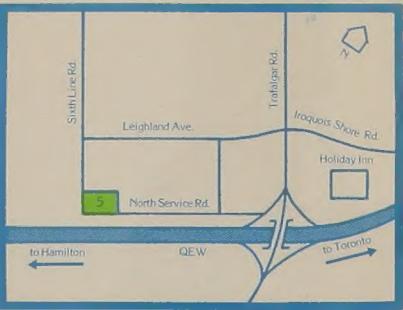
## What questions have been asked?

In the past two years the Recreation Facilities Project has responded to a large number of questions.

- How do we pre-plan and carry out a feasibility study for a sports centre?
- What kinds of surfaces for summer and winter sports are maintenance-free?
- What are the site considerations for an arena building?
- What are some suggestions for dressing rooms in arenas?
- How much does it cost to operate an indoor swimming pool?
- How do we go about designing an urban play area?
- What are the characteristics of floodlighting?
- How much do air-supported structures over ice surfaces cost?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of a double-rink arena?
- How are recreation facilities made accessible to special populations?

## Telephone or visit

Brief specific questions can be promptly handled over the telephone. Wider-ranging background searches may warrant a personal visit to the Project's office at 5 North Service Road, Oakville, Ontario L6H 1A1. Arrangements for visits and counselling can be made at (416) 844-8171.



# Planning a recreation facility?

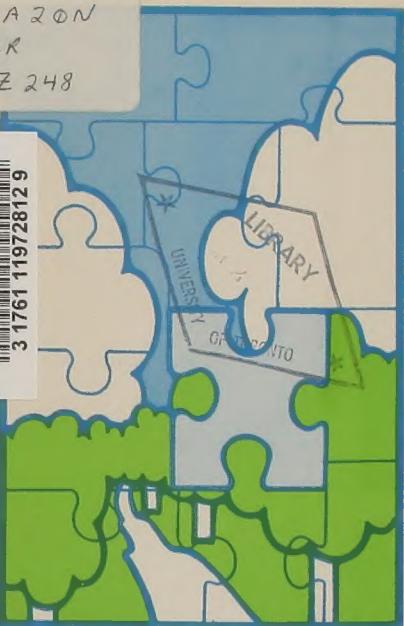
Government Publications

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